



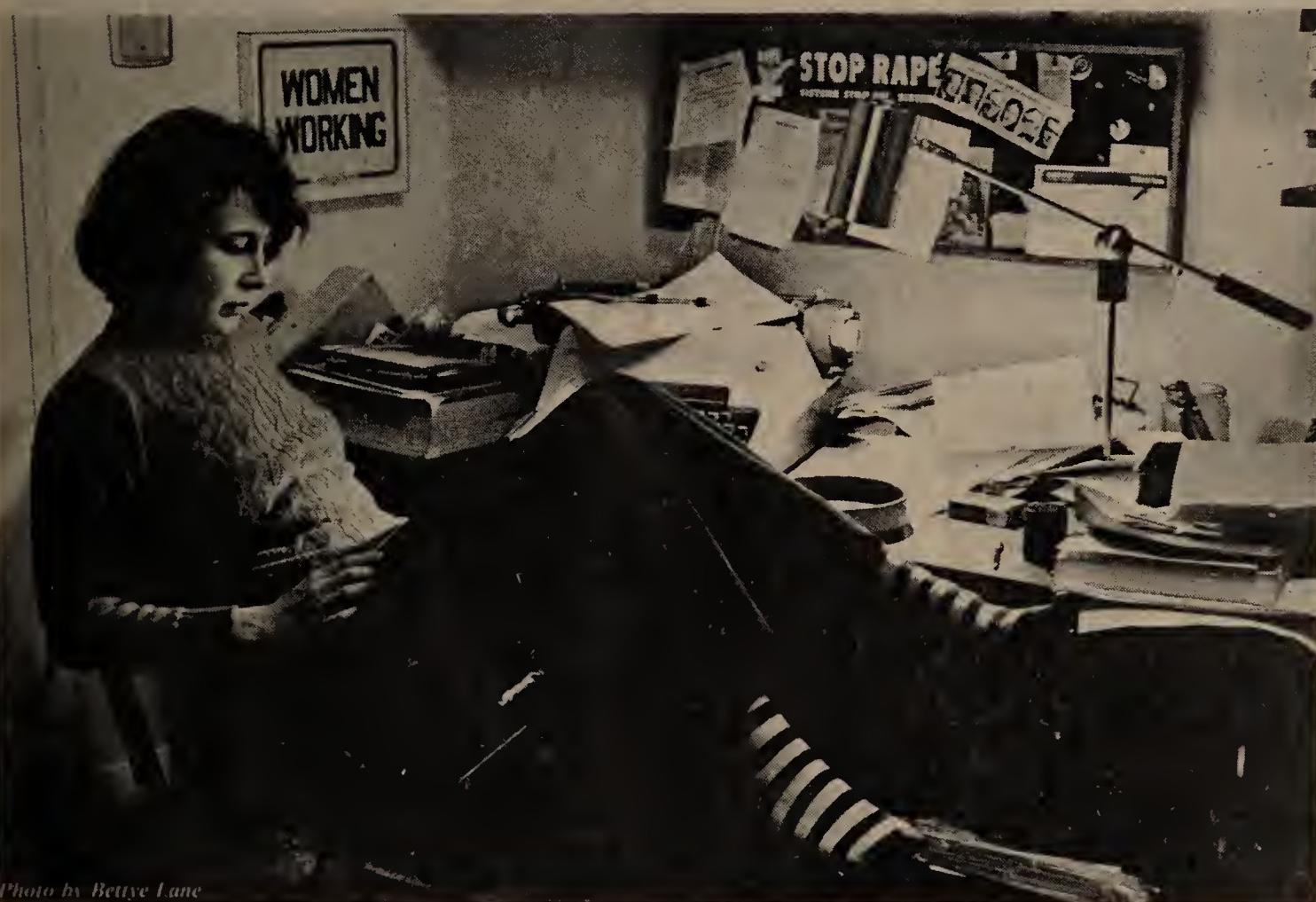
# the gay weekly

35¢

Vol. 3, No. 34

February 21, 1976

# Rape Is War



*Photo by Bettye Lane*

Susan Brownmiller, author of "Against Our Will," new book on rape, relaxes in her study.

**Shapp Sets Up Pa. Gay Council, p. 1**

**You and Your Mental Health, p. 10**



# gay community news

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17 Gays, 6 Non-Gays Named

## Shapp Appoints Sexual Minorities Council



GCN News Editor Neil Miller talks with Gov. Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania during the governor's recent visit to Boston.

Photo by John Scagliatti

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Governor Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania issued an executive order last Tuesday establishing the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities. The council, made up of 17 gay and six non-gay people, is the first such commission ever appointed by a chief executive of any state in the United States. Gov. Shapp

made gay history last April 23 as well when he issued an executive order banning discrimination in state employment because of sexual preference.

The Council on Sexual Minorities is an outgrowth of the *ad hoc* Gay Rights Task Force established by the governor last year. Although the new council possesses no enforcement powers, its

function will be to look into discrimination against gay people in the state government and make recommendations to the governor.

In a recent interview in the *Philadelphia Gay News*, Gov. Shapp put forth his ideas about the purpose of the council. "There are a number of goals you should shoot for," Shapp told interviewers Mark Segal and Keith Clark. "Of course, your first step is to develop programs and policies where state action can effect public programs. Secondly, through your work with other state agencies you can change some of the existing policies which can help end discrimination."

"And thirdly," continued the governor, "the council can be a place where you can highlight the whole problem and affect public support for your program. But most importantly, I think it's just another step forward, another one of the long steps down the road to ending discrimination and it should be looked at for what it is."

The gay members of the Council, announced by the governor, include seven people from Philadelphia, six from "rural" areas, and four people from Pittsburgh.

The Philadelphia representatives are Mark Segal of the Gay Raiders, Harry Langhorne Jr., Tom Wilson of the Gay

Activists Alliance, GCN columnist Janet Cooper, Barbara Gittings of the American Library Association gay caucus, Frances Hanckel of the Gay Media Project, and Karin Martin of the Gay Switchboard.

The governor's gay appointees from the Pittsburgh area are Debbie Boyle, *Pittsburgh Gay News* writer, David March of the Pittsburgh Gay Political Caucus, Randal G. Forrester, Persad Counseling Center, and Diane Gigler.

Gays outside the two major Pennsylvania cities who will serve on the council include Anthony Silvestre of State College, chairperson of the Penn State Homophile League; Mabel Lou Augustine of Reading, Gay Coordinating Society of Berkshire County; Sam Deetz of the Gay Warriors of Northumberland; Marily Hewitt of Harrisburg; and Jerry Brennan of the Gay Community Services of Harrisburg.

"Straight" members of the council include Joseph Borgiovanni, Jr., former chairperson of the Philadelphia Bar Association; Frederick D. Morris, a Philadelphia social worker; Bishop Lyman Ogilby of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania; Barbara K. Shore, M.D., Director of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh; George William Smith, a psychiatrist from (Continued on page 7)

## He'll Appeal 'Lewd Acts' Verdict

## L.A. Deputy Mayor Weiner Found Guilty

LOS ANGELES — After seven hours of deliberation, a Los Angeles jury of eight men and four women found Deputy Mayor Maurice Weiner guilty of lewd conduct on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Weiner had been arrested on Oct. 16 of last year at Pepino's, an adult theatre in Hollywood, by an undercover agent who charged in court that the deputy mayor had "groped" him.

After the jury handed down the verdict, Weiner announced that he would appeal, stating, "I believe the verdict is unjust as I feel the charges and trial were unjust." He claimed that

"some vital information had been withheld from the jury."

The lewd conduct charge is a misdemeanor and carries a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$500 fine. All those convicted of the charge must register as sex offenders as well, according to California law.

Mayor Thomas Bradley, who had testified at the trial on behalf of the man he called his most "trusted" aide, stated that "I am deeply disappointed. I still believe in Maury's innocence."

During the trial, Weiner testified on his own behalf that he had gone to

Pepino's at the request of the mayor to look into reports of police harassment of homosexuals. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Mayor Bradley testified that he had asked Weiner to look into the subject but had not given him any specific instructions to go to Pepino's. The mayor did emphasize that it was within the discretion of his staff to go to a place like Pepino's.

There had been reports in the Los Angeles gay press, particularly *News West*, that the Bradley Weiner arrest might have been a set-up, arranged by anti-gay Los Angeles Police Chief Ed

Davis, to embarrass the mayor on the gay issue. The defense in the trial questioned why six undercover agents had been in the theatre the night that Weiner was arrested. But, according to the *Los Angeles Times* report, the defense "backed down" on allegations of a "set-up" and also on allegations that the undercover agents had been drinking.

After the verdict was announced, Chief Davis gave his personal congratulations to Deputy City Attorney Steven Leventhal, the prosecutor in the case.

## Gay Press Gathers For First Time

BOSTON — At the first meeting of the gay press ever held, representatives of nine gay newspapers met in the Boston office of GCN and agreed to form a gay press association. The newspapers also decided to set up a news service and to explore cooperation in advertising. The conference, which was called by GCN and chaired by its acting managing editor, Lyn Rosen, took place during the weekend of Feb. 14-16.

About 25 people attended the conference, comprising most of the major gay newspapers of the East Coast of the United States and Canada. Newspapers represented at the conference included *Philadelphia Gay News*, *Pittsburgh Gay News*, *Ohio East Gay News*, *High Gear* (Cleveland), *Maverick* (New York), *The Barb* (Cleveland), *The Empty Closet* (Rochester), the *Body Politic* (Toronto), and *GCN*.

At a news and features workshop which opened the conference, the first

gay news service was established. As GCN is the only weekly newspaper which was represented, this newspaper was chosen to be the focal point of the service, at least in its initial stages. News leads and news stories, according to the plan, will be phoned to the GCN office; GCN will research and write the stories. If GCN decides that it cannot use a story, it will list the main points and contact people of the story on a news release sheet, which will be sent to all the other newspapers using the service on a weekly basis. The monthly papers will take the news leads from issues of GCN as well as the news release sheet and give these stories the focus and direction which they would like.

The other significant decision taken at the conference was to explore possibilities of getting national advertising for the gay press. The nine newspapers represented have a circulation of more than 100,000. It is hoped that a

combined front could be presented to advertising agencies which would allow an advertiser to advertise in all nine papers. Special concern was expressed at the meeting about sexist and exploitative advertising. Since GCN has the most stringent standards of advertising content of all the newspapers represented, it was agreed that if an ad was acceptable to GCN, it would be acceptable to everyone else.

Promotion, distribution, public relations, and staffing were among subjects also discussed at the conference workshops. Several newspapers discussed their problems with having male and female staff working together. GCN appeared to be the only newspaper represented that had a significant lesbian presence both on their staff and in the newspaper. Except for the GCN representatives, all the conference participants were male.

For many, an equally vital part of the conference took place in the

informal sessions outside the official format. It was the first time that members of the gay press could meet each other, share experiences and common problems, and make valuable contacts.

The newspapers represented at the Boston conference agreed to meet again in Philadelphia on May 8 to continue discussions.

The United Press International picked up the story, which was reported in the *Hartford Courant*. With a headline called "First Convention Set for Gay Journalists," the UPI release stated, "BOSTON (UPI) — The Gay Community News of Boston Thursday announced it will be host for the first convention for gay and lesbian newspaper workers at its Boston offices today through Monday. The three-day convention is open only to newspapers on the East Coast and neighboring Canadian areas, the News said."

# news notes



## GAY TEACHER OUSTED

NEWARK, Del. — The University of Delaware has disclosed that it is dismissing Richard Aumiller, an open Gay who is faculty advisor to the University gay campus organization, the Philadelphia *Gay News* revealed. Aumiller, who is the school's theatre director, came to his present position last fall. Shortly after being hired, he became faculty adviser to the university's gay campus organization, Gay Community.

In dismissing Aumiller, Dr. Edward Trabant, president of the 19,000-student university, said that Aumiller had "placed himself in a position of encouraging, condoning, and sanctioning homosexuality for the undergraduate. When young students come to the university they may be unacquainted with various modes of sexual behavior . . . If they become misled, thinking the university condones this, they are in error."

Aumiller told the *Philadelphia Gay News* that "I'll fight this thing with every resource I can muster. I have no intention of leaving Newark until this issue is resolved."

Aumiller is presently appealing his dismissal. His contract will not be renewed when it expires Aug. 31.



## DYKETACTICS SUES

PHILADELPHIA — Six members of Dyketactics, the lesbian feminist group, are suing the city of Philadelphia for \$260,000, the Philadelphia *Gay News* reports. The lawsuit grows out of a disturbance in the Philadelphia city council chambers on Dec. 4 during hearings on the city gay rights bill, 1275.

The six women, all of whom required medical attention after the incident, are charging Police Inspector George Fencl and as yet unnamed police and City Council employees with "excessive force."

## N.E. Gay Conf. Set

WORCESTER, Mass. — Gay People at Clark University and the Worcester Gay Community will host this year's New England Gay Conference to be held the weekend of March 26-28. The conference theme is "Our Diverse Selves," and a series of workshops are being planned to take place at the Clark University Academic Center.

The conference will open with a keynote speech by a speaker yet to be announced on Saturday morning at 10:00. Some of the tentatively projected workshops which will follow the keynote include: Third World Gays, Gay Youth, Ageism, Gays and Health, Rural Gays, and Gays in Recreation. Plans for a Women's Caucus is also being finalized, and the conference

## MINEO MURDERED



Sal Mineo

LOS ANGELES — Sal Mineo, the well-known Hollywood and stage actor who became famous playing James Dean's sidekick in "Rebel Without A Cause," was found murdered outside his Hollywood apartment last week. As Mineo was reputed to be gay, there was immediate speculation that his murder might have been "gay-related."

*Newsweek* magazine reported that "Police investigators were unable to establish any motive for the killing — there was no evidence of robbery. But partly because of Mineo's recent homosexual roles and partly because the knifing occurred near the notoriously kinky Sunset Strip, long-whispered reports of the actor's alleged bisexuality and fondness for sado-masochistic ritual quickly surrounded the murder; one acquaintance went so far as to speculate at the murder scene that 'it was a new boyfriend or something. They do have their quarrels'."

In recent years, Mineo has played almost exclusively gay roles. He recently directed and acted in a Los Angeles production of the homosexual prison drama, "Fortune and Men's Eyes." He was scheduled to open next week in James Kirkwood's play, "P.S. Your Cat Is Dead," playing a gay burglar.

In a Hollywood obituary, director Peter Bogdanovich said, "Sal had some strange tastes, but he was totally unaffected by it. The murder was so shocking because as a person he was so innocent."

organizers indicate that there will be a large number of workshops by the time the conference nears.

Conference spokespersons Robert Davis and Nancy Meyer told GCN that there is some hope of setting up a unity organization, perhaps a New England Gay Organization at the conference.

As the Boston Ballet will perform at Clark on the Friday evening before the conference, the organizers have reserved 100 tickets for people attending the conference. A dance is also tentatively planned for Saturday evening as well as other entertainment.

Housing will be available on a limited basis. Anyone desiring information about the conference as it becomes available should contact Gay People at Clark, Box A-70, Clark University, Worcester.

## FUNDAMENTALISTS

SAN FRANCISCO — A shocked San Francisco gay community is mobilizing against Heliotrope University, a large local alternative school, for firing one of its teachers because she is a lesbian.

In a letter, the teacher, Barbara Ames, who also teaches at the Gay Lavender University, was told by Heliotrope that, "Heliotrope's focus has changed and our outlook is now a Christian one. People come to a class on relationships looking for answers . . . The answers you give them necessarily reflect your own viewpoint. If your views are confused by homosexuality, what you teach will also be confused. Then people will get the wrong answers at their Heliotrope class."

Gay activists in San Francisco are attempting to get student and teacher support for a boycott of Heliotrope.



## NO FLORIDA WED

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida Attorney General Robert Shevin ruled on Feb. 10 that same-sex marriages are illegal in the state of Florida. He made his decision, citing recent cases in Washington, Kentucky and Minnesota, that marriage is a relationship between a woman and a man.

"Notwithstanding the fact that the law relating to marriage in this state uses neuter terms, I am of the opinion that it does not contemplate marriage between persons of the same sex," the attorney general was quoted as saying in *Gay Liberation News from Florida*. Shevin noted the U.S. Supreme Court's rejection of an appeal of a Minnesota court decision that struck down the legality of gay marriage. He also uses a court decision in the state of Washington as a precedent. That decision found that a ban on gay marriages does not violate that state's Equal Rights Amendment.



## BAMBI IS A DEAR

WELLFLEET, Mass. — At a recent forum on presidential candidates at the Wellfleet Elementary School in this Cape Cod town, a person in the audience asked a question on Gay Rights. Representatives for Gov. Carter of Georgia, Sen. Henry Jackson of Washington, and Sargent Shriver all gave their candidate's positions or lack of positions on the issue. Bill Damon, Massachusetts coordinator of Gays for Shapp, gave the Pennsylvania governor's position. Attention then turned to Bambi Udall, daughter of Arizona liberal Congressman Morris Udall. What was her father's position, the questioner asked? She paused for a moment. "I think on this issue, I'd have to give my vote to Governor Shapp," she said.



Liberty Bell.

## CLEVELAND VICTORY

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, O. — Gay rights scored its first significant victory in northern Ohio as the city of Cleveland Heights (population 62,000) issued an affirmative action program for municipal employees that includes gay people. The city charter now states that homosexuals "are to be protected against discrimination in hiring, promotion, and dismissal."

According to a report in the Cleveland gay monthly *High Gear*, Cleveland Heights was the target of a carefully unpublicized effort by gay activists. The newspaper quoted Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force as stating "Cleveland Heights was a target city." "The importance of the Cleveland Heights victory," said O'Leary, "is that it marks a first in Ohio's most heavily populated county."



## conntact

By Tom Caruso

HARTFORD — Supporters of Connecticut's proposed "Sexual Orientation Bill" have intensified their lobbying efforts following Friday, Feb. 13's surprise legislative decision that the bill must face the more hostile House first.

The procedural ruling, made by State Senate and House leaders, compels all of this session's bills to face first the legislative body where they were defeated last year. Thus this year's gay rights bill, which last year sailed through the Senate 23-11, but died in the House 87-60, must enter the 151-member House first.

"What it basically means is that we have less time to urge support," says Chris Pattee, coordinator of the 'Sexual Orientation Committee,' the main citizen's group advocating passage. Admitting that she was initially shocked by the news, Pattee disputes claims that the decision was an effort to quash the bill. "The ruling affects every bill and is an effort to speed up business in a year when there is a tremendous backlog of legislation," she told GCN.

Of more immediate concern, according to Pattee, is the bill's possible entry in to the "Appropriations Committee." It could become bogged down there if co-chairs Sen. Robert Houley, D-Vernon, and Rep. John Groppo, D-Winsted, don't move it out quickly. Sen. Houley has expressed support for the bill, while Rep. Groppo voted against it last year.

With an uncertain procedural fate threatening the bill, the "Sexual Orientation Committee" is advising supporters that the bill could reach the House floor as early as Feb. 24. Sen. Betty Hudson, D-Madison, co-chair of the "Human Rights and Opportunities Committee" that sponsored the bill, is reportedly keeping close tabs on it to prevent any "procedural hanky panky" from enmeshing it in red tape.

# Rep. Noble Named Bayh Delegate

CAMBRIDGE — At a caucus held last Sunday, Representative Elaine Noble of Boston topped the Birch Bayh delegate slate in the Eighth Congressional District of Massachusetts. The district comprises parts of Boston and Cambridge. If Sen. Bayh receives more than nine percent of the vote in that district's Democratic primary on March 2, Noble will automatically become the first gay delegate to a national political convention.

Noble's selection on the first ballot was made possible because a score of supporters were present and voted as a bloc. The procedures used by the Democratic party are new this year: a flat majority of those present was necessary to select a district delegate. Each person had up to three votes for women and three votes for men. A reasonably popular candidate could, with a close identification with the national candidate and national issues, hope for at least a third choice by many of those voting. By "bullet voting," that is, by voting for only one person, a candidate with a personal following could receive a majority with as few as 15 additional votes.

In leading the slate on the first ballot, Rep. Noble is confident of



Rep. Elaine Noble chats with Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana at the opening of Bayh's Cambridge headquarters.

having an important position in the Birch Bayh caucus of the National

Democratic Convention, and a strong position in the Massachusetts delega-

tion. Representing an urban district, a variety of women's groups, and as a Lesbian feminist, she is hopeful that her position on issues signifies a policy position that the state and national Democratic parties can no longer ignore.

In reviewing the results of this and other caucus selections, Noble stressed the importance of the Massachusetts primary in picking the next President of the United States. "Each step is extremely important," she said that afternoon. "A sensitive and sympathetic candidate, with a representative and active state delegation, an open and creative platform, and an awful lot of legwork, telephoning, and fund raising, could turn this country around. Birch Bayh is my candidate and I am working with him for those changes. The help I had today is the kind of help we need to pass gay legislation, enact the Equal Rights Amendment, open state and local government to poor people, gay people, women and others who are closed out of the system. If we did it this time we can do it again, and again, until we have a President we can trust and a government we can respect."

## NY Public TV Offers 3 Hour Gay Show



By Leon Heath

NEW YORK — On February 29 at 1:00 p.m., New York's public television station, WNET Channel 13, will present a three hour live television

event called "Outreach Lesbians and Gaymen: We're Here, and We Care." This program is by, for and about the gay communities of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

The purpose of this program is to inform isolated lesbians and gay men what exactly is available to them in the tri-state area, from social events to medical, counseling and legal services set up to serve their needs.

The program format will be panels, personal commentary, and entertainment. The panels will be short and precise; all approximately 12 to 15 minutes each. The panels will be followed by four minutes of close ups (personal commentary) ranging from 30 to 90 seconds. The purpose of these panels and closeups is to get across the message to the gay viewing public that

they are not alone, and there are a wide range of groups and services to serve their needs and interests.

Among the entertainment will be scenes from David Rogenck's "Coming Out Blackouts," originally presented at the Gay Academic Union Conference in November 1975.

Panels on the show will include Rewards of Coming Out, Education, Identity through Lesbian and Gay Counselling, Sensitivity, Medicine, Law, and Religion. There will also be a Men's and Women's panel, focusing on "ourselves, the gay communities, and the future."

While the program is in progress, phones at the studio will be staffed by 30 lesbians and gay men. The viewing audience will therefore be able to call the studio during the program itself for

any desired information on services and groups that were mentioned or flashed over the air. Unlike many other television programs, this program is not to convince a heterosexual viewing audience that gays are decent human beings, but is for a gay viewing audience, especially the isolated and closeted audience.

The Gay Media Coalition of New York has contacted more than 100 tri-state services and organizations to make sure that they will have input into the show. Kitty Cotter, Lesbian Feminist Media Director, and Leon Heath, GMC co-ordinator, have been working with a committee of twelve for the last three months, as well as with Outreach Service executive producer and host Crane Davis, and producer Gayle Jension to put together this event.

## Saxe Attorneys Charge Pretrial Publicity

By Marion Tholander

BOSTON — Seventy-six percent of 405 people interviewed in a scientific study in Suffolk County, Mass., believe Susan Saxe to be guilty of involvement in the 1970 bank robbery in which she is charged. Twenty-five percent of those interviewed in the survey never heard of Saxe before but still believe that she is guilty.

These are some of the facts that were presented in the testimony of Dr. Carol Brown of Cambridge, a sociology professor at Queens College in New York, as she testified at a pretrial hearing in the Saxe case last Tuesday. The hearing was held to consider the possible influence of pretrial publicity on the case. The defense motion to dismiss the case on those grounds was taken under advisement by the presiding justice in the case, Superior Court Chief Justice Walter H. McLaughlin.

Dr. Brown's survey, which was taken by telephone in late August and early September of last year also showed that 59% of those polled stated that they believed that they could be "impartial jurors" while 30% ans-

wered that they could not be "impartial," while 11% were not sure.

According to these statistics, Brown testified that a hypothetical jury of twelve would be comprised of nine people who believed that Saxe was guilty. This statistic applied both to a jury taken from the "fair minded" group and also to the total sample.

In addition, Brown revealed that only 30% of those polled felt that it was up to the state to prove that Saxe was guilty. Sixty-two percent stated that they believed that it was up to the defendant to prove her innocence. Thus, according to the statistics, Brown said, seven out of twelve jurors on a hypothetical jury would feel that it is up to Saxe to prove her innocence, despite the cardinal rule of American jurisprudence that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

The prosecutor, Asst. District Attorney John T. Gaffney, attempted to cast doubt on the credibility of Brown's survey by questioning the composition of the census-takers. "How many of the 22 women who took the surveys were lesbians?" he asked over defense

objections. "I don't know," answered Brown.

The defense, in putting forth evidence of what it considered unfair pretrial publicity, furnished nine volumes of Boston newspaper coverage of Saxe plus scripts of all TV channels in the Boston area dealing with the case since 1970.

The defense noted that Saxe's name appeared in headlines 272 times in 1970 and 116 times in 1975. Defense Attorney Gertner also noted that the words "radical" and "revolutionary" had been ascribed to Saxe 527 times in the press, the phrase "criminal on the 10 most wanted list" was used 1,087 times, and the description "lesbian-feminist" 98 times.

Dr. Shulman, of the New York Bail Project, who did pretrial work in the Mitchell-Stans trial, testified at the hearing as well. When asked if Saxe could get a fair trial, he said flatly, "No."

On the day of the pretrial motion, the Susan Saxe Defense Committee released a statement challenging the possibility that Saxe could receive a

fair trial. "It is clear that Susan cannot get a fair trial with an unbiased jury anywhere in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," the statement said. It accused the press of "bias" and condemned the influence of "government agencies" which "have resources of money, manpower and influence" and who "have access to the media that individual citizens could never match." "The government exerts a type of control over the media that belies the myth of a free press," the statement continued.

The Defense Committee statement also sharply criticized the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted List" as a "media creation," and charged that Saxe's presence on that list "has strengthened the public's perception of her as a dangerous individual."

Judge McLaughlin indicated that he would put off his ruling until the Feb. 24 hearing. On that date he will consider defense motions to appoint Saxe as co-counsel, to dismiss the case on the grounds of the makeup of the Grand Jury, and to dismiss because of the "face of the indictment."

# EDITORIAL

This weekend at the GCN office, the first convention of gay and lesbian newspapers was held and the Gay Press Association was born. We could only invite papers that used a similar format of news and features, papers that were close by (since we were putting people up in homes and providing the food ourselves). It was hardly the Republican National Convention, but to gays it was an event of unusual importance.

About 25 of us got together, from nine different newspapers: from the east coast, the mid-west, and Canada; from collectives; from the gay news chain; from a one-owner hierarchy. Except for GCN, all were monthly publications. We were mostly men, between the ages of 20 and 35. We were concerned that more white women and

third world women and men were not involved in the papers. We worried about sexism, ageism, and racism in our papers, and in ourselves.

We all make enough money to put out our newspapers. None of us makes a living wage and most of us make nothing at all. We all wanted better news coverage, larger circulations, good-looking newspapers, and good relations between the various presses. We saw that we agreed basically on policies and shared the same problems. In short, we're a lot alike. And we felt that our meeting was valuable enough to reconvene in three months, in Philadelphia.

The event is important because the number of gay newspapers is blossoming. Together, we have a circulation of over 60,000. We reach a lot of people, all together. It was good to learn we shared ideals as well as money prob-

lems, that we wanted to cover *all* the gay community, to be responsive to its many voices and points of view: that we want a great, gay message to reach movement people, the closet population, and the straight community.

One shared problem of the gay press is, what do you who read it want to see reflected in it? We can only cover the problems and lifestyles that you, the readers, tell us about — by writing letters, sending us articles, making a fuss. What we learned this weekend is that your voice — if you raise it — will reach at least 90,000 people: 90,000 hearts and minds.

We need your voices. We need to know what oppresses you, where you hurt, and why; we need to know what makes you happy, too, what turns you on and what turns you off, about us and about you and your lives. Unless you tell us, how will we know?

## LETTERS

*Letters to the Editor should be 200 words or less. All letters submitted for publication must be signed; names will be withheld upon request. GCN retains the right to edit all letters.*

### better & better

Hi Gang—

Hi Marion, Lyn, David, Dave, Denise, Bill, Margo, Ronnie, John, Mike, etc., etc. GCN is better and better. Your *Advocate* editorial (Feb. 7) was tops. Someday we'll be the biggest (we're already the best) in the country and *Advocate* will be run out of business (unless it changes). Truth will prevail. Everyone will be free to be themselves. (Oh, you are a dreamer. But you're not the only one.) Anyway — kiss kiss kiss.

Love,  
Satya  
(San Francisco)

Goodstein: Because I wanted to be a publisher.

Q (concerning community complaints and capitalistic orientation).

Goodstein: Tough. They [those that complain] also can't afford to buy what our advertisers want [them to buy] and do a whole lot of things in this world. [Like go to Chicago?] [Brackets mine.]

The ugliness of the thought that the gay community could give birth to its own *Manchester Union Leader* is only surpassed by the possibility that we would sustain it. Far too many of us have given far too much to see Goodstein's egotistical and capitalistic powerplay succeed.

In support of the courageous *Advocate* staff writers who protested this turn, I have refused an offer to research a news article for the *Advocate*, and shall no longer buy the publication.

Much love to all,

Ian Johnson  
San Francisco

### goodstein's loeb blow

Dear GCN:

Bravo for your powerful Goodstein editorial. In my years at GCN I saw us struggle to be a cohesive, positive, supportive force within the community. I could not then have imagined an attack on another gay publication, but our restraint only serves to make this editorial more powerful.

Spurred by the GCN review, I am now reading Cash's *Who the Hell Is William Loeb?*, and the similarities to Goodstein are terrifying. At stake, as well as the gay liberation movement, is the integrity of gay journalism and even basic human rights.

From an interview with Goodstein in *Vector*, Dec. '75:

Q. Why did you buy the *Advocate*?

Dear GCN:

Phil Gambone's forum article "Coming Out: The Gay Identity Process" is right! Phil has presented us with both a personal account and an appropriate bit of scholarship. His article could so easily be a pilot project on the psychology of coming out. Your Forum columns have been quality works which almost always "touch my lifestyle." Their personal emphasis gives them depth, authenticity and real meaning for me.

Your editorial in the same 2/7/76 issue "A Liberation Publication!" hits the issues squarely. Coming out is important. I agree with your analysis.

I have been away from Boston this year doing an internship. Keeping in touch with Boston, the issues locally there and nationally is important for me. I find GCN the finest gay publication around and that really hit me when I read Phil's article and the editorial today. I just haven't gotten around to saying it. Thanks all you folks who work so hard to put it together.

Shalom,  
Bill Stackhouse

## for conn.

To the Editor:

Please list on behalf of the gay community in Connecticut in your next issue:

Many thanks to the Partner's Cafe for their Support in Fund Raising for the 1976 INTO CB60 on Feb. 12, 1976

Gay Alliance at Yale  
Kilos Society, Bpt.

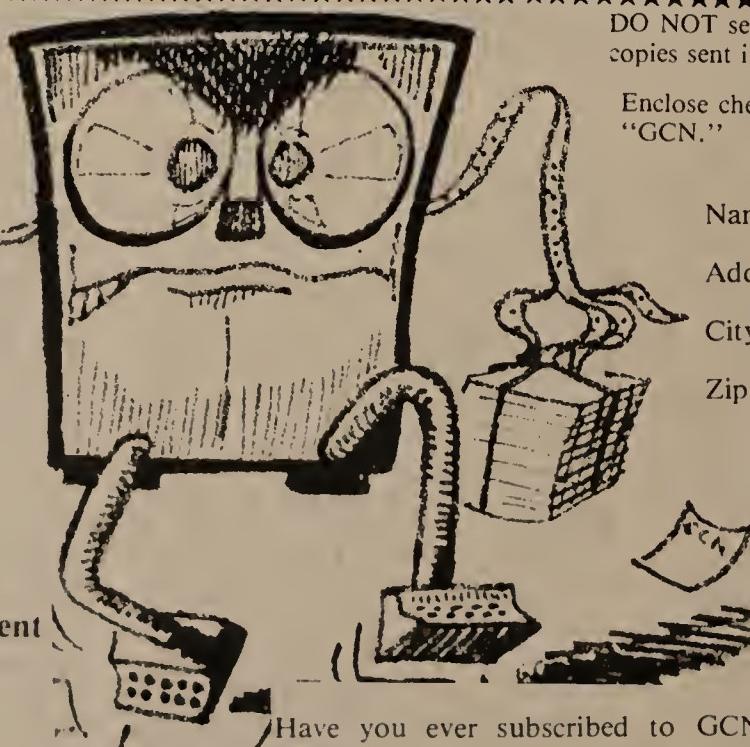
Thank you,  
Wes Polcio  
President, Kilos Bpt.  
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Any amount in excess will be considered donations, greatly  
needed and appreciated.

## tv or not tv

Hello GCN Staffers:

Paper's getting slick eh? I understand features must be hard to come by these days — but what's with all the junk on Transvestites? If the articles were done in a more intellectual vein, without 5 by 3 inch pictures and maybe with more analytical perspective, they would be worth reading. If I have the time, a more profound, detailed explanation will be forthcoming. I still love you all and support you.

Love & gay faith,

Candyce Rusk



## by bi bayh

Dear GCN,

Before the Bayh-Bicentennial spirit grabs gay brothers too much, I must relate my personal experience with the 6 foot, blue-eyed Democratic darling.

In New York, at a neighborhood Democratic club, Bayh made his standard presentation for endorsement. It is a liberal district and the club president had lobbied hard for Bayh; the crowd was friendly and impressed. During Q&A, I managed to be called on for questions (he'd avoided women and called on only men up to that point). I asked him what his position was on gay rights — whether he'd state it for the audience — and whether he'd agree to lead or co-sponsor a Senate gay rights bill. Bayh said he was in favor of civil rights without limitations

regarding sexual preference (never once saying the word "gay"). He then stated he couldn't run for the presidency and sponsor a Senate bill, as he's only in his office one day a week and can't burden himself with extra legislation during his campaign. Then he asked, "Does that answer your question?"

Honestly and cordially, I said, "Quite frankly, sir, it is a bit mealy-mouthed." At which point he pulled a double-take, grabbed the microphone and shouted, "What do you expect me to do, a tapdance on your head?" The club president then maneuvered to another questioner, some safe and not so uppity.

The inference? I wasn't "Yassuh" enough a gay for Birch Bayh. The next night, he spoke to the Gay Political Union and never once said the words "gay," "homosexual," or "lesbian." Other uppity gays called him on that. I stayed home, not willing to pay 10 bucks to hear more pablum, especially since the money went to his campaign.

Observations: #1, Indiana residents should talk to their self-admitted absent Senator. #2, gay people, be wary of pretty words without actual visible support.

As for me, I plan to write in Rep. Barbara Jordan (D-Texas).

Uppity as ever,

Loretta Lottman

P.S.: If Diane Bellavance wants a name of straight men who hang around lesbians, how about "Dyke tyke." Or, perhaps, "TROLL"!

## no prize for the bride

Dear GCN:

The following letter is written in the form of a complaint against an ad run by the GCN in its issue of two weeks ago:

The Land of Oz was supposedly a costume ball on Wednesday, Feb. 11. According to the ad run in the GCN the prizes were to be as follows: \$200, Best Costume, \$200, Best Drag, and \$100, Best Dancer.

Thinking that I would have a good chance of winning Best Costume, I decided to dress up as a bride and a friend of mine would go as my groom. Naturally, our "\$200" prize would be split, 100-100!

I called Oz to inquire about the Costume Ball as I had some friends who were interested in coming to cheer us on and have a good time, also. After calling several times to inquire about admission and what time the judging would be, I received several different answers. Still, I was not

discouraged and did in fact show up with my friends.

Yes, there was free champagne and yes, there was a buffet.

However, there was no \$200 for Best Costume and to my knowledge no \$200 for Best Drag.

To me, this is out and out false advertising. If the ad had read, "CASH PRIZES" I would have no room to complain. *The ad didn't!!*

I don't put the blame on GCN for running the ad but through the paper I wish to object very strongly and make people aware that a bar which supposedly serves the gay community would say one thing and do something else.

We did win "a prize," being told very politely we would both receive "an envelope with something in it." Enclosed is a copy of my envelope for 1st Prize-Costume which contained \$10 in it.

If this bar is there to serve the gay community they could have fooled me. I suggest they come out of their closet and say what they mean and mean what they say.

"An Unhappy Bride"

## bouquet for s&m

Dear GCN:

Since reading your recent article on S&M, I've been broadened! I've always linked S&M with a raunchy hotel room fully supplied with chains,

whips, ropes, and sweaty panting people. Not only do I see the potential healthiness of it, but the article stirred me to examine some of my own feelings that felt suspiciously similar to some of those described by Rosenjoy. Although I choose to work out a relationship's problems out of the sack rather than in, I feel freed, knowing that S&M has its own okay place.

Amy S.

## holding on

GCN—

The article "Suicide" by David Brill hit home. I have these thoughts of self destruction quite often. Sometimes they are quite intense. I think it is to get away from something, not to get somewhere. If the destructive thoughts become intolerable, don't know what I would do.

John Russell

Enjoy your paper very much.

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

GCN needs a managing editor; should have newspaper experience and/or management background. Send resume to GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, or call Lester at 426-4469.

See  
Special Guest Star

Mr. Brandy Lee

at the

GCN Benefit

7 pm

at

DiRocco's Cabaret  
Sunday, Feb. 22nd



## SEE THE 'HAUNTED HOST' AND ENJOY COCKTAILS WITH ITS STARS, HARVEY FIERSTEIN AND PERRIN FERRIS.

TUESDAY EVE  
FEBRUARY 24

**ROBERT PATRICK'S**  
(AUTHOR of 'KENNEDY'S CHILDREN')  
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SHOWTIME AT 8:30 pm WITH COCKTAILS  
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# Shriver Indicates He'd Back Exec. Order

By Neil Miller

BOSTON — In an exclusive interview with GCN, Democratic presidential contender R. Sargent Shriver indicated that, if elected President, he would be willing to issue an Executive Order barring discrimination against gays in the Federal employment. Shriver also defended his position on gay rights in the past and challenged the accuracy of his famous "to hell with gay people" quote.

Shriver at first questioned the need for such an order, indicating that he felt that gay people did have legal recourse if they lost federal jobs because of their sexual orientation. However, when informed that there was no such recourse for gays, Shriver said, "If what you say is true, I would certainly be in favor of taking steps to end that situation." Both Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana and Governor Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania, candidates, along with Shriver for the Democratic presidential nomination, have endorsed such an Order.

Shriver also stated that his bad image among gay people was based on a "distortion." Shriver said that his

widely circulated "to hell with gay people" quote has been taken completely out of context. "I was speaking



Presidential contender R. Sargent Shriver turns on the Kennedy charm at a visit to the Don Orione Home in East Boston.

Photo by John Scagliatti

## Northeast MCC Attacks S-1

By Bob Johnnene

PHILADELPHIA — The Northeast District Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, meeting in Philadelphia Feb. 14, voted to go on record opposing Senate Bill 1, the proposed reform of the U.S. Criminal Code. Critics have said that S-1 would be a "prescription for Fascism" in this country, putting severe restraints on the press, dissidents, and individual rights. MCC voted to encourage its congregations to actively participate in urging Senators and Representatives to defeat this bill by means of a letter-writing campaign.

MCC members and friends were also urged by the District Conference to

write to their Congresspersons in support of the National gay civil rights bill (HR 5452), introduced by Rep. Bella Abzug, Rev. Roy Birchard and R. Adam DeBaugh of the newly established MCC Washington office on Capitol Hill say that many Congresspeople claim that their mail does not reflect any interest in the bill.

The theme of the conference was stewardship, and a paper was presented by the Rev. Gilbert Lincoln, pastor-designate of MCC New York, in which he outlined the many forms of stewardship in addition to money; stressing that contribution of time and talent are often more meaningful to organizations than money and can go far in

furthering their goals.

Another significant action of the conference was the election of the Rev. Jay Deacon of Hartford and Ms. Kerry Brown of Washington as representatives to the international commission on Government and Polity, which will examine the restructuring of the governing and by-laws of UFMCC.

Representing Boston at the conference were the Rev. Edward T. Hougen, worship coordinator of the Boston church, in whose honor the conference

### Shapp

(Continued from page 1)

Harrisburg; and Thomas Wietling, an official of the Association of State Municipal Employees from Harrisburg.

Mark Segal of the Philadelphia Gay Raiders and one of the governor's appointees told GCN that the council is "the first of its kind in this nation. I hope we can meet the significant goals we have set for this. The establishment

was dedicated; Doug Kandoll, exhorter; Ric Hollingsworth, deacon; Jim Hayes, lay delegate; Bob Calkin, vestryperson, and Bob Johnnene, communications person.

The New England area will be the setting for the next two regional conferences of MCC. The spring conference will be held May 15 and 16 in Providence on the theme of covenant relationships and the autumn conference will be held in Boston in October.

of the council shows what can be done if gay liberationists would put their minds to work and use everything at our fingertips. I really believe in what we're doing."

Segal had special praise for Gov. Shapp, praising the governor as "the only politician I've ever admired. Segal noted that Shapp held off release of the announcement of the council until a "good press day." The governor waited until the Tuesday after the Valentine's Day and George Washington's Birthday holidays to announce the council's formation.

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### OPEN LETTER TO MASSACHUSETTS GAYS

Gay oppression is so much taken for granted that many politicians don't have a position on gay rights, much less a positive record of action.

We in Pennsylvania wish to share the record of Milton J. Shapp, Governor of Pennsylvania and candidate for the Presidency.

1972 — Governor Shapp supported the right of an openly gay teacher to be certified to teach in Pennsylvania.

1974 — Consistent with his support of human rights for all people, Milton Shapp authorized formation of a Gay Rights Task Force to identify and find solutions to the problems facing gays in Pennsylvania.

1975 — In January, Governor Shapp designed a deputy attorney general to testify before the Philadelphia City Council in behalf of gay rights legislation to protect the rights of gays in housing, employment and public accommodations.

1975 — In April, Milton Shapp issued an Executive Order stating, "In furtherance of my commitment to provide leadership in the effort to obtain equal rights for all persons in Pennsylvania, I am committing this administration to work towards ending discrimination against persons solely because of their affectional or sexual preference."

1975 — In May, Governor Shapp appointed an openly lesbian activist to the Pennsylvania Commission for Women.

1975 — In October, Milton Shapp vetoed Senate Bill 196 which sought to prohibit state employment to gays in many areas of state work. His veto message stated, in part, "This bill, in its vindictive intent, is a setback for the cause of fair and equal opportunity. All my life, I have fought to end the barriers of discrimination against any person or group. At this time, I do not intend to traffic in demagoguery and reaction by signing a measure so clearly unfair as Senate Bill 196."

1976 — In February, Governor Shapp said in a newspaper interview, "If they [state employes] want to publicize any fact about themselves — whether they are gay, what their religion may be or their ethnic background — I encourage people to do this . . . We have to break the log jam on gays and keep going until we end discrimination against all people."

1976 — Also in February, Governor Shapp issued an Executive Order creating the first State Council for Sexual Minorities, a majority of whose members are gay activists, and appointed an openly gay activist as chairperson.

In public appearances as Governor and as a Presidential candidate, Milton Shapp has urged legal and social recognition of civil rights for sexual minorities including protection against discrimination in employment. He has maintained this support in the face of political opposition and a hostile, anti-gay legislature.

Governor Shapp has opened his administration and its resources to prepare legislation protecting the rights of sexual minorities including a revision of the criminal code and a revision of the human relations act.

We ask you to compare this record with the records of other Presidential candidates.

We urge you to vote for Milton Shapp in the March 9 primary to insure that his dedication to human rights is clearly heard throughout the United States.

*Philadelphia*  
Gay Activist Alliance  
Gay Raiders  
Metropolitan Community Church  
Beth Ahavah  
Gay Youth  
Gay Students at Temple University  
Philadelphia Gay News  
Concerned Citizens for Gay Rights  
Dignity

*Pittsburgh*  
Metropolitan Community Church  
Dignity  
The Pittsburgh Gay News  
The Pittsburgh Gay Political Caucus  
Gay Students at the University of Pittsburgh  
Lambda — The Gay Wave Length  
Gay Alternatives Pittsburgh

*Central Pennsylvania*  
HOPS — Homophiles of Penn State  
Lesbian Collective  
Blair County Gays  
Committee for a State College Human Relations  
Ordinance  
Pa. State University Undergraduate Student  
Government Gay Desk  
Le-Hi Ho (Lehigh Valley)  
Gays United Lancaster  
Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus  
Lancaster Gay Era  
Lancaster Women Oriented Women  
Gay Warriors of the Susquehanna Valley  
Gay Youth and Women of the Susquehanna Valley  
North Eastern Pennsylvania Gay Alliance  
Gay Coordinating Society of Berks County  
Dignity — Central Pennsylvania  
Gay Community Services of Harrisburg  
Gay Switchboard — Harrisburg

# VOTE SHAPP

MASSACHUSETTS PRESIDENTIAL  
PREFERENCE PRIMARY

# MARCH 2

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The above information is required to comply with Federal Election Campaign Laws.  
A copy of our report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and is available  
for purchase from the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C.

## News Commentary

# David B. Goodstein - Controversial Publisher

By H. J. Thomson

SAN FRANCISCO — Elaine Noble rose to a position of national gay leadership through her election to public office. Mark Segal of Philadelphia made it through his bold public demonstrations. Minnesota State Senator Allen Spear, former Air Force T/Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, and former New York State Health Commissioner the late Dr. Howard Brown became "stars" by "coming out" in public. But one nationally known star rose to power by making a single purchase.

Who? David B. Goodstein, articulate and controversial publisher of *The Advocate*, the world's largest gay periodical. In December of 1974, 43-year-old Goodstein, who had been a highly successful entrepreneur in the computer industry as well as on Wall Street, bought the newspaper for a reported \$1 million. Since then, he has risen to a position of high visibility, giving stern indications that he intends to make his own personal mark in the gay movement. And now he is planning a by-invitation-only conference in Chicago to give some form to his ideas about the composition of the gay movement and the directions in which he feels it should be moving.

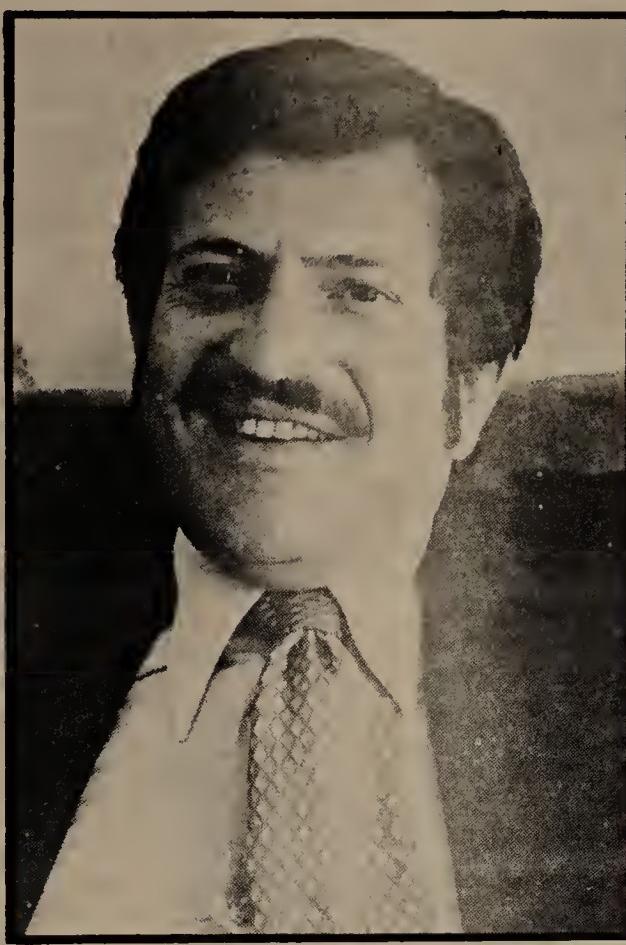
In the *Advocate's* Jan. 14 issue, Goodstein, through his regular column, "Opening Space," made numerous observations about the state of the gay movement nationally, in a blistering dissertation that precipitated the resignation of Contributing Editor George Whitmore of New York, as well as the protestations of five other writers.

In his article, Goodstein warned that "Gay 'spokespeople' are disconnected from their constituency," that "almost everything of any significance is being done behind the scenes by people who do not wish to be known or exposed to harassment by other gay people, especially by self-appointed gay leaders." Goodstein charged that most visible gay spokespeople "appear unemployable, unkempt, and neurotic to the point of megalomania." He also strongly disagreed with one of the basic tenets of Gay Liberation spokespeople — that gay women and men should be encouraged to come out of the closet.

The protesting *Advocate* journalists called Goodstein's "rhetoric . . . shocking" and expressed doubts as to "how long the paper can be a responsible voice for either the great majority of gay people or the movement."

In his letter of resignation, Whitmore said to *Advocate* editor Robert McQueen, "Those of us who don't necessarily consider ourselves 'leaders' but who want to be responsible spokespeople for the concerns of gay people no longer want to be associated with his [Goodstein's] publication."

Goodstein himself penned a four-page response to the six correspondents. "There is room in my



David B. Goodstein

Photo:Crawford Barton

universe for you; I hope there is room in your universe for me," he said.

In his reply, Goodstein defended his remarks, and reiterated his characterizations of the gay movement's spokespeople as "disconnected, unrepresentative, and intolerant." He expressed anger and was turned off by "starved organizations and poorly attended demonstrations," as well as "rhetoric and real mental disorder, as defined by doctors, not by me."

"Our legal rights will be achieved because legislators vote for them," he argued, and insisted that "clout in the voting booth" is "totally dependent on our motivating enough gay people to write checks."

Boston's *Gay Community News* responded to the Goodstein piece with an angry editorial questioning *The Advocate's* right to be termed "a liberation publication," and asked the readers to make their own judgments. So far, *GCN* reports that their mail has been five-to-one against Goodstein, and in favor of the *GCN* position.

The Gay Activists Alliance (GAA) of New York issued "an open letter" entitled "In Defense of the Gay Liberation Movement." GAA termed the

Goodstein piece "a virtual declaration of war on the gay liberation movement." GAA notes that rather than citing the proliferating number of gay groups in the country, enactment of anti-discrimination statutes, repeal of sex-law prohibitions in thirteen states, and gay pride marches, Goodstein instead says the movement's greatest pride is "the many new, well-lighted, expensively-decorated bars and clubs that are rapidly replacing the dingy toilets of old."

*NewsWest*, a San Francisco-based gay newspaper with many former *Advocate* writers on its staff, also responded with an editorial on Feb. 6. "We think it's time that something be done to stop him," said the newspaper. "We can help to save the movement from him — and we must."

The most immediate cause of *NewsWest's* concern (and also, incidentally, that of the Gay Liberation Alliance of San Francisco), is Goodstein's planned March 27 "ADVOCATE 1976 INVITATIONAL CONFERENCE," scheduled to be held for a full day at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago. According to best sources, only about thirty or forty persons were invited to this meeting. Although Goodstein has refused to divulge the guest list, it has been learned that Rep. Elaine Noble, Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller of the National Gay Task Force, Chris Pattie of Connecticut's Sexual Orientation Lobby, and Sen. Allen Spear of Minnesota, have all been invited and plan to attend. Gay Raider Mark Segal of Philadelphia was one gay "leader" shunned by Goodstein.

In his letter of invitation, Goodstein states: "We are inviting people to this conference who we have reason to believe agree with the basic objectives, who can help raise money to make them a reality, and who represent a group of like-minded people. We are not trying to convene a conference of the wide and divergent spectrum of gay and civil rights opinion."

He lists two "formal" objectives of the meeting: to establish a full-time lobbyist for gay civil rights in Washington, D.C., and to organize a national grassroots political effort to support the federal lobbying effort. Informally, he states that he would like to meet leaders of the gay civil rights movement and share experiences with them.

Part IV of the "agenda" has caused the greatest stir. It is called "Dealing with Gay Spoilers: a) Keeping them off broadcast media and out of print media, and b) Keeping them away from legislators or at least neutralizing them."

Clearly, Goodstein is doing what he wants to do — "make a mark" — on the gay movement. He is fast becoming the most divisive personality to ever hit the national gay community. And the results of his by-invitation-only conference may well be a pivotal point in the history of the movement.

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# You are Mental

A Study



★ A 24-year-old male bisexual sought treatment for his homosexual tendencies. He was a graduate student and was married. He and his wife were having marital problems. He sought professional counseling.

The therapist decided on an aversive counter conditioning procedure which was to be directed toward the patient's thoughts about cruising and sexual activities. The patient was relaxed and instructed to narrate a recent sexual experience to the therapist. At various points phials of dilute ammonium sulfide (odor of rotten eggs) and butyric acid (odor of dirty athletic socks) were held under his nose.

For the next week whenever the patient looked at a man with sexual interest, the choking sensations were re-experienced. He had no homosexual contacts for a month, during which time the patient continued relations with his wife two or three times a week, which was no more frequent than before.

After six months the patient returned to the therapist for more treatments. The patient had delayed returning because of unsatisfactory relations with his wife. He did not want to give up homosexual activity unless he was sure he had a wife to return to. Sessions were resumed, and at last report, it was six weeks since the patient went looking for a homosexual sex partner.

This case comes from a scientific journal (*Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry*, 1972, Vol. 3 No. 3, Sept. 1972, pp. 185-7.) and is illustrative of the technique of aversion therapy. Homosexuality is linked to an aversive sensation — in this case bad smells — in order to have the patient avoid gay sex the way he would avoid rotten eggs. It is a therapy based on punishment.

It is to be noted that even the scientists conclude aversion therapy has only a temporary effect. The patient above seemed to forget his conditioned responses after a while. It is also to be noted that the marriage was not necessarily improved when the husband gave up his gay activities, so that even if aversion therapy was 100% successful — which it is not — the desired result would not have been achieved anyway.

Aversion therapy is a negative reinforcer; its purpose is to drill in that this or that is bad. Historically it derives from Pavlov's work on conditioning but was forgotten about until 1956 when M. Raymond published "Case of Fetishism Treated by Aversion Therapy" in the British Medical Journal. Most aversion therapy is either chemical or electric, but over the years noise and traumatic respiratory paralysis have also been used. Noise failed because patients adapted easily to increased noise.

Twenty milligrams of scoline is used to relax a patient. At first he/she will be able to lift his/her arms and legs. After a few minutes his/her whole body will be a dead weight, although she/he will remain conscious. Finally the subject will be too weak to breathe, at which time she/he will be lectured to. As you would suspect, people are all ears when death is right around the corner. This method of therapy, based on fear, is somewhat successful, despite its suspicious legality and questionable ethics. (This case from *Aversion Therapy & Behavior Disorders: An Analysis*, by S. Rachman & J. Teasdale. Coral Gables: U. of Miami Press, 1969, pp. 1-174).

Aversion therapy is one of several ways the psychiatric community treats gays. Traditionally gay pride and the psychiatric community did not get along until the A.P.A. issued its 1973 resolution removing homosexuality from their list of mental disorders. However, individual psychiatrists still believe that if a gay person's sexuality is causing him/her problems, it may be

necessary to change it. Homophobia did not disappear with the decree. Gays seeking mental help — for whatever reason — whether or not the problem is sex-related — had better be on the lookout.

Becoming popular nowadays is behavior modification, a series of principles designed to control and alter human behavior through a system of rewards and payoffs for good behavior — and immediate punishment for unsatisfactory behavior. By definition there is a controller and a subject. The controller makes all the medical, psychiatric and ethical decisions. Sounds like *Brave New World*, you say? It should also sound like *Walden Two* by B. F. Skinner, an unsuccessful novelist who wrote about his theories, and who is considered the father of behavior mod.

Behavior mod people and aversion therapy people do not get along. Aversion therapists say — punish negative behavior, whereas the behavior modifiers would call electroshock torturous and primitive. Behavior modification — put simply — says positive behavior will recur if it is reinforced. A dog will do a trick if he knows he'll get a goodie when it is done. People will act a certain way if they are reasonably certain they'll get something out of it. Behavior modification principles have positive uses and demonstrable value for teachers and schoolchildren, for the mentally retarded and for alcoholics — if used properly. Behavior modification does work; it has been scientifically proven. Hopefully the principle will not be misused. Behavior modification gives enormous power to the person shaping the behavior of another person.

A good example of Behavior modification would be the following: at an elementary school in Michigan where Behavior modification people were experimenting, a teacher complained that a certain class was particularly noisy. The teacher brought in a timed buzzer and announced that the buzzer would be set at ten minutes and allowed to run to zero. Each time the buzzer sounded the kids would receive an extra two minutes of recess and gym period. But if at any time during the ten minutes they were too noisy, the timer would be set back at ten minutes. The noise level dropped dramatically because the children wanted the payoff. (from *Behavior Mod* by Philip J. Hilts. New York: Harper Magazine Press, Harper & Row, Publ. Inc., 1974, pp. 1-228).

The problem with Behavior mod is, of course, a social one: that is, who gets to do the modifying. As long as there is any discrimination against gays, gays may be a particular target of the abuse of this principle.

Here's an example of Behavior mod possible misuse:

Brian is 24 and has been in trouble all his life. His father could be described as a person given to violence, stemming from excessive drinking and a bad temper. Father and son have never gotten along. Mother is a rigid, emotionally-controlled woman. She is not close to her son, but she mediates when her son and husband quarrel. As a child Brian's educational history is marked by nine major residential changes and by discipline problems. He was expelled from school three times. He had difficulty in interacting with other boys and was aggressive and punitive toward girls. He dropped out of high school after three years, enlisted in the military, which resulted in a psychiatric discharge after one month due to homosexual tendencies. He has now no profession and is a drifter.

Therapists implanted stainless steel teflon-insulated electrodes at nine places in his brain, so that controllers could stimulate electrically those parts of the brain where the electrodes had

been planted. Stimulation induced pleasure, a reinforcer for positive behavior. He was also under other therapy for his attitude and disposition.

He was shown a stag film, and during its showing he became sexually aroused, had an erection and masturbated to orgasm. Over the next few days he exhibited an increasing preoccupation with sex and a growing interest in women. Therefore the hospital arranged for a 21-year-old prostitute to spend two hours with him in complete privacy.

The patient has since been released and is an outpatient of a community mental health center. He does not work (he has been unable to hold down a job) and still has a complaining disposition. He has, however, formed a close sexual relationship with a married woman. He reports that he only experienced homosexual sex twice, WHEN HE WAS BROKE, AND HUSTLING WAS A QUICK WAY TO GET MONEY. (from *Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry*, Vol. 3 No. 1, March 1972, pp. 23-30).

This case exemplifies, first of all, the social bias and irresponsibility of the doctors. They were out to change his whole personality, so they claimed, but they focused their therapy on his sexuality. In the end they only altered his sexual practices — somewhat, as he still can have gay sex. He was changed from a practicing homosexual to an adulterer, an ironic turn of fate, if his "conversion" was supposed to be a benefit to society. In actuality he is still not contributing anything to the lives of those around him — or to society at large. He still cannot hold down a job. He is still moody, temperamental and undependable. Big improvement.

The point to be made from these examples of aversion therapy and behavior modification, is that modern mental health care consists of more than the popular misconception of a patient going to an analyst once a week, paying \$50 and lying on a couch. If individuals in the psychiatric community are not tolerant or accepting of gay people, gays will find abuses in modern mental health care.

What kind of treatment a gay person will receive from a psychiatrist (an M.D. with experience in mental health, who may prescribe treatment and drugs) or a psychologist (a Ph.D. in psychology, who may prescribe treatment but not drugs), as well as what happens if a patient does go to an institution, can be determined by contemporary thought on homosexuality. Because "is gay sick" is still a topic for debate, one can't count on all medical personnel to have a sympathetic point of view. So before we look at the typical mental hospital, a look at some current theories about gay is in order.

Irving Bieber is the writer whose books were most influential to the writers who think gay people are sick. His main work is *Homosexuality: A Psychoanalytic Study of Male Homosexuals* (New York, 1962). The "Conclusions" to this book are reprinted in *The Homosexual Dialectic*, Ed. Joseph A. McCaffrey (New Jersey, 1972), and the reader is directed to that text for further discussion of what I will summarize.

Gay people should be suspicious, in my view, of any writing on homosexuality which deals mainly with causes of homosexuality. How gay people came by their sexuality is irrelevant to the day-to-day life of most gays. No one ever wonders about the causes of heterosexuality, so when writers deal with causes of homosexuality, most of the time they are betraying their biases; people don't look for the causes and symptoms of health, but disease. A search for the cause of gayness is usually followed by

# Your Health

n Myles



a cure. Bieber is obsessed with causes.

Bieber assumes heterosexuality is the norm. "In our view, the human has a capacity for homosexuality but a tendency toward heterosexuality. The capacity for responsiveness to heterosexual excitation is inborn (McCaffrey, p. 86)." Bieber's study was based on his observations of 106 psychiatric patients who happened to be homosexual. Because non-patients who are also gay are not observed, Bieber could be confusing homosexuality with a host of other problems which may have nothing to do with being a homosexual.

Cause and cure are of central importance to Bieber. The causes? Among them: disease or injury to genitals, aversion to female genitals, anxiety accompanying actual or contemplated heterosexual behavior, castration anxiety, strong mother relationship, parents with severe emotional problems, detached and hostile fathers, early sexual activity, preoccupation with sexuality and sex organs, sexual overstimulation, failure in peer group and chronic depression.

The cure? Psychoanalytic treatment, which Bieber believes can cure all homosexuals who wish to change.

Gay-is-bad theorists have been with us for some time. Gay-is-good writers are a newer bunch. Unfortunately, in my view, many gay writers let their enthusiasm and self-pride get in the way of their objectivity. The well-intentioned result is then less than scientific, and for my purposes, most had to be discarded.

However, the writings of Thomas Szasz have carried weight in recent years. In *The Manufacture of Madness* (New York, Harper & Row, 1970), Szasz also looks at causes. But he wants to know why the psychiatric and medical professions have ever considered homosexuality a disease or abnormality in the first place. "If by disease we mean deviation from an anatomical or physiological norm — as in the case of a fractured leg or diabetes — then homosexuality is clearly not an illness." Szasz traces the ideas of sin, heresy and homosexuality from the *Bible* onward in order to show how over the centuries the concepts gradually became blurred. As the dominant social ethic changed from a moral to a social one, a substitution was needed for heresy. Society then came up with the idea of mental illness. What was heresy before was now psychiatric maladjustment. Slowly religious view became medical prejudice. Treating homosexuality like measles, the psychiatrist puts pseudomedical labels on society's scapegoats, Szasz says.

Szasz also hopes for changes in the psychiatric profession, which would reinforce traditional American ideals as religious freedom and pluralism. Just as Americans may hold whatever spiritual views they choose, medical society should allow them the same right to think as they choose, he says. "The justification now for a separation of Medicine and State is similar to that which was obtained formerly for a separation of Church and State."

## The Contemporary Psychiatric Hospital: Introduction

Basically a person looking for psychiatric help today would seek assistance from a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist would probably practice independently or in conjunction with a clinic. The clinic would be mainly interested in out-patients. If therapy was unsuccessful the individual may be referred to a psychiatric institution. Also, any doctor or police officer who believes a person would create a "likelihood of serious harm" can have her/him hospitalized for up to ten days. Likelihood of serious harm is supposed to mean possible suicide or homicide, but in fact it can mean

**"because gay is sick is still a topic for debate, one can't count on all medical personnel to have a sympathetic point of view"**

whatever anyone in authority wants it to mean. So it is not that difficult to end up in a mental hospital.

There is no shortage of such institutions in this area. Many state hospitals abound, such as Danvers, Bridgewater State, Boston State and Metcalf State. These institutions differ from the Fernald State School, operated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. At Fernald, patients are long-term. The institution's function is custodial rather than therapeutic. The patients there are chronic and unable to care for themselves.

Private hospitals often have psychiatric wards, and many hospitals have wings or extensions — or even another hospital (such as Massachusetts General's McLean Hospital) — devoted to psychiatric patients. These institutions are private and expensive. Yet the care here is better than that one could get in a state institution. Patient-staff ratio in a state hospital is sometimes as bad as 70 to 1, whereas the ratio in private facilities is much better. As in other aspects of health care in America, what you can afford to pay determines what kind of care you will get.

Problems in getting released experienced by those in public hospitals (to be discussed below) are not shared by patients in private hospitals. In a hospital which is privately owned, the patient may be considered better and able to leave as soon as he or she runs out of money. Private hospitals have better food and prettier rooms, and patients receive more attention.

## Treatment and Recovery in a Mental Hospital

There is an interesting new study on this topic, entitled *The Mental Hospital and Human Services*, by Herbert Schulberg, Ph.D. and Frank Baker, Ph.D. (New York, 1975, pp. 1-350). These two doctors from Harvard Medical School did their research over a ten-year period at Boston State Hospital.

They found that in 1963, 37% of mental hospital patients were receiving no specific treatment at all. But by 1968 this percentage had dropped to 13%. The hospital was less a custodial institution than previously had been the case. In the last ten or so years psychotherapeutic drugs have come into use, which fall into two basic categories: anti-depressants and anti-psychotic drugs. The doctors say that the drugs have a high success rate in helping psychiatric patients to recover. Verbal therapy alone was on the decline, while verbal therapy combined with medication was on the increase.

However, I have found in interviews I conducted with ex-patients that the doctors are presenting a distorted truth. The patients say that day-to-day life in a mental hospital now has little to do with psychiatric treatment. Increasingly hospitals are drugging their patients rather than helping them with their real problems.

Here's an example: Johnny's parents committed him for "observation" because of admittedly strange behavior: in moments of stress Johnny was seen eating grass and dirt. One other time he set his hand on fire. Upon arrival at the institution he is given a shot of prolixin in his ass. The drug has a lot in common with LSD, both impair normal thinking processes and induce hallucinations. Prolixin causes vomiting for hours, and then turns the person into a zombie for as long as two

weeks. The after-effects can impair almost every major internal organ. The hospital is not so much concerned with thinking as behavior. Any infraction of their rules will bring another dose of the drug. Johnny learns quickly he must play along so as not to be drugged or tied — another frequent tactic of punishment. This case is true and is documented on film. It can be seen at the film *Hurry Tomorrow*, which was recently shown at the Kenmore Cinema and Orson Welles Theater.

In an interview I conducted with two members of Mental Patients Liberation Front (one of them gay), I was told that the drugs are used basically as controllers. They are a method of punishment frequently inflicted. Actually the drugs do not "cure" a patient at all. After a while the patient learns what to do or not to do so as to avoid the drug or solitary confinement. They also report that many hospitals illegally utilize patients to do work without paying them. They reported that patients in private hospitals will receive the mind-bendings and various psychotherapies — whereas the state hospitals just don't have the time or manpower for the therapies, for the most part, so they just fill up the patients with drugs. A patient at Boston State Hospital won't eat too well or have his or her favorite color of curtains, and that patient is actually less likely to have his or her head changed around by psychotherapy as someone in a private hospital.

The Mental Patient's Liberation Front did not know of anyone who was hospitalized merely for being gay, but I personally know of one such case where a woman and her lover were committed by their respective parents when the parents discovered the relationship between the women. Unfortunately, this woman would not agree to be interviewed; the memory was too painful.

One final note on the MPLF: they felt that the Boston area mental hospitals are somewhat intimidated by the highly vocal and organized gay groups here. Homosexuality is dealt with subtly. Aversion therapy, for example, is not commonly practiced in hospitals here. Homosexuality is discouraged, frowned upon and ridiculed by staff members in the hospitals rather than punished by aversion therapy.

The real difficulty any mental patient experiences is when he or she gets out of the hospital. That person is, in effect, a second-class citizen. Children can be taken away. The court may have declared the individual unfit to manage business affairs, so his or her money may be already spent by relatives or seized by the state to pay hospital costs. The ex-mental patient will have extreme difficulty getting into a graduate or professional school. The ex-mental patient will have trouble obtaining a driver's license, borrowing money, getting a job (where she or he will probably have to lie on the application) or renting an apartment. As one would imagine, one's self-esteem is likely to be at an all-time low. Coping with oppression due to being gay at the same time just makes a heavy load worse.

To return to Schulberg and Baker's book, the doctors say that recovery rates at mental hospitals are found to be directly related to age and length of stay in the hospital. In other words, the younger the patient, the more likely was her or his recovery.

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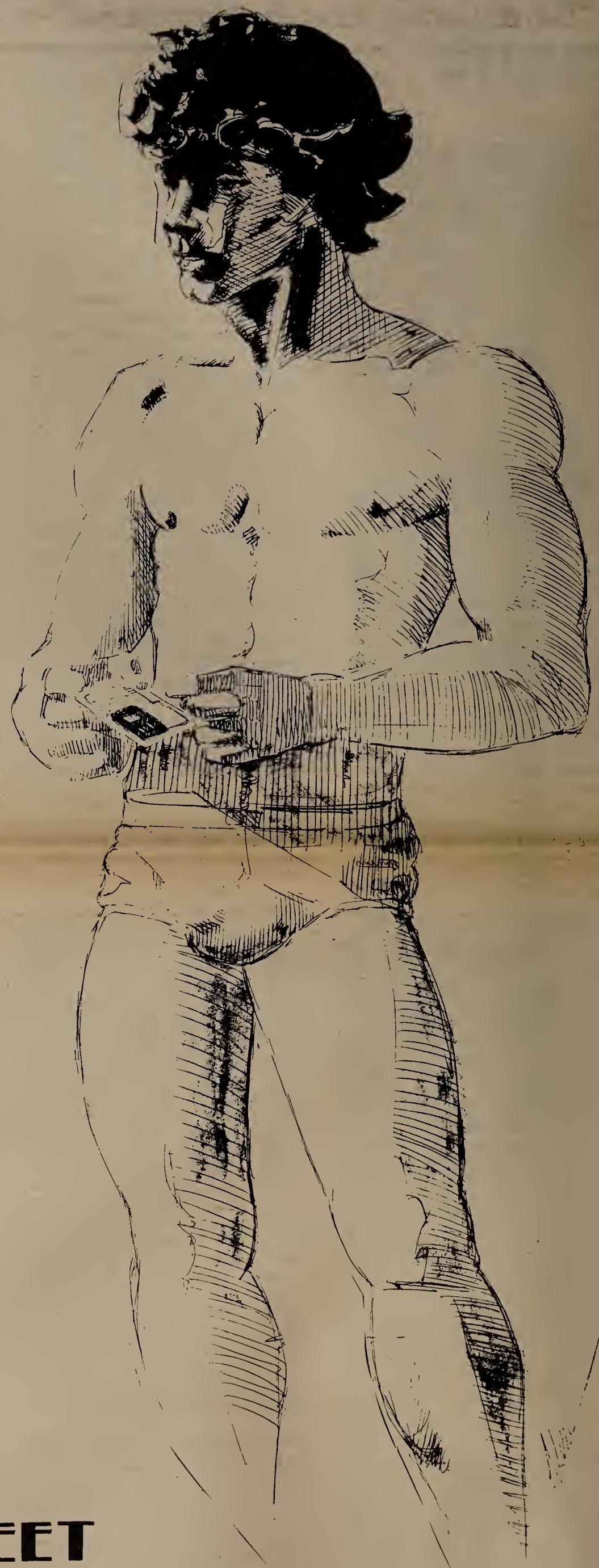
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# "Romantic Englishwoman" - candlelight claustrophobia

By Gary Jane Hoisington

At the outset of "The Romantic Englishwoman," Joseph Losey's latest film (playing now at the Charles Cinema), Elizabeth Fielding, the wife of a lowbrow novelist, has just fled her gilt-edged marriage for what she believes is freedom: Baden-Baden, a fairy-tale spa where the rich go to sustain, amid the glamour of gaming tables and seven-course meals, the delusion that they are interesting. She meets Thomas, a gigolo/heroin smuggler/poet, who later turns up at the Fieldings' country home in England. There, Thomas hangs around (at the husband's insistence, as a torture to Elizabeth) long enough to underline Elizabeth's dissatisfaction with the bourgeois life; she and Thomas run away together after Fielding catches them making love in the gazebo. The flight is a short, hopeless dead end.

"The Romantic Englishwoman" develops Losey's use of strong central women characters, which began in cartoon form with Monica Vitti in "Modesty Blaise." It has since matured, in films like "The Go-Between" (with Julie Christie) and "A Doll's House" (Jane Fonda) into an earnest concern for female equality. Although the condition of women is expressed here in clichés ("Women are an occupied country," "I would be dissatisfied, but I don't feel I have the right"), the clichés resonate when Fielding appropriates them to beef up a corny screenplay he's writing, and when, following Elizabeth's encouraging desertion of husband and family, her lover's betrayal sends her back home, where "all the people we know," looking extremely well turned out and sinister, have already let themselves in.

Unlike Nora in "A Doll's House," Elizabeth Fielding leaves the door half

open instead of slamming it shut. As a gossip-columnist friend tells Fielding after his wife departs, Elizabeth hasn't got it in her to be really free; she's too locked into consumerism, family life, and respectability. She can only try to possess Thomas, to own him, and finally to consume him. "To Elizabeth," says the columnist, "Thomas is freedom. And that makes it sexy." It's sexy, all right, but it isn't freedom. "People make too much of sex," this woman continues. "It's nothing someone should leave home for."

Like Godard, Joseph Losey makes films that entertain difficult, polemical ideas and sustain a daring amount of intellectual content. Despite his frequent, extremely fecund association with Harold Pinter (substituted, in this film, by Tom Stoppard), Losey is above all a pictorial artist. Like Velasquez, Losey paints mirrored depths which appear ambiguous at first glance. A moment later they strike with aggressive clarity. His films seldom rely upon language to carry the weight of his ideas; instead, the words underscore or counter point the rich revelations of the camera. (This is why Pinter, a verbal minimalist, is the perfect Losey screenwriter.) The dialogue in this film is ugly lame in a few spots, but doesn't injure the film very much. Most of the incidental lines are scarcely audible. As in "Accident," Losey here elaborates an interesting meditation on transpersonal exchange by alternately dimming and amplifying the sound track, turning up the level of coherence when the characters say something interesting about themselves and, when they don't, letting the visuals speak for them. Losey's technique is not as audacious as Godard's, say, in "Alphaville" or "One Plus



Glenda Jackson in "The Romantic Englishwoman."

One." It is effective, though, and Godard and Losey are the only senior directors in whose works the possibility of a Brechtian cinema have been seriously explored. (One new director who has attempted the Brechtian approach — with admittedly mixed results — is Susan Sontag.)

"The Romantic Englishwoman" recalls many Losey set-pieces: the Horrible Party Guests; the jaundiced, opulent interiors; the sensual Mediterranean; and, most particularly, the visitor who never leaves and eventually dominates the lives of his hosts. Losey is an obsessive artist, refining two or three essential themes.

Every Losey film is a probe of social, political, and personal claustrophobia. The figures in his landscapes are all being chased or asphyxiated. Here, they're hounded by the malignant meaninglessness of their own comfort, the absurd conformity of their class, and the mediocrity of the work that maintains them in it.

Losey doesn't succeed completely in

rendering the Fieldings' lives horrid. True, their marriage is a psychological prison. But the enslavement of the upper middle class compels only so much compassion. One wonders if sex, or "freedom," or anything else an acquisitive person like Elizabeth might want couldn't be ordered over the phone from Oxfam's and billed later. As far as her true nature is concerned, I doubt that there is anything to leave home for. This may be what Losey is getting at, but in the two closing shots he compels genuine alarm for both Elizabeth and her bluff, semi-autistic spouse: Fielding may have learned something from the whole experience. Maybe he won't make his wife "pay" (and pay, and pay) for her attempt at liberation. But everyone they know will anyway. The desperation we feel on their behalf, as they stare from the Rolls into their own living room windows, is more than they've earned through the course of the film. ("After all," the husband might tell the wife, "they're your friends.")

None of the three principals is really at home with this movie. Caine is miscast around the edges and sometimes verges on turning to the camera and saying so. Glenda Jackson, our modern Bernhardt, eclipses everyone with Homeric self-parody (she is the only actress today who can parody herself and get away with it), and Helmut Berger acts, as usual, the complete neurasthenic.

Yet they all bring it off beautifully. The triumphant minor casting certainly helps: Beatrice Romand and Michel Lonsdale are predictably fine, and Natalie Delon the joy she always is. Despite the handicaps noted (and they would cripple a lesser film), this is the most impressive film of the year so far.

## HOUSE OF REPUTE

By Robert Nadeau

This restaurant has the slowest service in Boston; also some of the most relaxed atmosphere, weird architecture and good food. The owner/host/sometimes waiter is Tony Bosco, who is also a former furniture designer/carpenter and devised the unique architecture of The House. Since you'll wait about forty-five minutes after ordering, you'll notice that the restaurant is in a former three story house, with all the interior walls and floors removed. You can look up through two sets of beams to a ceiling thirty feet up, rather like being inside a white, well-lit cavern. Huge paintings by Byrd Swift, whose whimsical "Queer Skies" series is now on display in Boston City Hall, add warmth and motion. No one seems to mind the wait, once warned, because the house is unhurried, unassisted, and the tables aren't even crowded.

"I gave up lunch because it was no fun," says Bosco. "People were on short lunch hours and they wanted quick service."

What this waiting is about, is remarkable food, every dish cooked to order from the beginning in the small kitchen. (Bosco wants to build a bigger one, after he finishes the front deck.)

We begin with an unusual antipasto with large wedges of cheese, prosciutto (the rarest and finest of hams), genoa salami, real tomatoes, anchovies laid on soothing strips of pimento, and plenty of well-dressed greens.

Soup was a rich, cabbage-based number, creamy without milk, buttery without oil, and savory without imitation. The House minestrone is equally rich, grainy with beans and smooth from homemade paste.

The House special is shrimp and clams Fra Diavolo with Linguine. The pasta is extra thin (linguini?) and cooked precisely al dente, the littlenecks are steamed perfectly, and the jumbo shrimp could not ask for a nicer touch of fire than this devil sauce. It is rare to find fist-sized shrimp that retain the juiciness of small ones, but the House chef has either a secret source, or some magical treatments. When Bosco comes to rest after a hard night's henning, this dish is set before the owner by his waiter, who is his son T.J.

The shrimp are found in scampi. I have a friend who loves shrimp and never eats them in restaurants because "you never get enough." After the scampi, he skipped dessert.

We also studied the veal situation at the House. Veal Cacciatore found some tasty, impeccably white scallops of

veal in a vast plate of savory peppers, onions, mushrooms and tomato sauce. The Veal Cutlet Parmigiana is a sonata of sweetness and light.

But the masterpiece of the evening were two other veal confections. Veal Marsala pointed yet not oversweet, held a certain depth in its sauce of wine and mushrooms. This may be the perfect presentation of delicate veal for the hearty palate. Every molecule of sauce was spooned up.

If there is an overall tendency to the House kitchen, it is toward lightness. The sauces are somehow as gay and relaxed as the ambience. Consider the Veal Rolltine scallops wrapped in more real prosciutto and fortina cheese, sealed a la Parmigiana, and served up in a wine sauce. It sounds busy, and indeed, few restaurant chefs have the ability to balance all these flavors. Usually the veal is overwhelmed and the whole thing tastes like a blue-ribbon ham and cheese sandwich.

But the House, with laid back wine sauce, and its up-front use of authentic ingredients, makes this dish with delicacy and even grace. This Veal Rolltine has its own flavor, and it is a standard against which other dishes of this genre will be measured.

Desserts include Baby Watson cheesecake, of which the advertising is accurate, and a Chocolate Mousse that will send any diabetic into a psychotropic state.

One has a feeling at the House that one is visiting the studio of an eccentric artist. The work in progress is the restaurant building itself, at which Tony Bosco frets and tinkers since my last visit, is a Fellinian environment with walls of distorting mirror material. The distortions are mostly horizontal and one common effect is of a double body. Everything is painted white like in "8½." Very, very spacy.

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books

## Rape Is War

**Against Our Will. Men, Women and Rape.** By Susan Brownmiller. New York, 1975, 404pp.

A Review by Michael Bronski

Susan Brownmiller has given us a book on the politics of rape that is both shocking and unquieting. Shocking because of the history and extent of the crime and unquieting because she makes us deal with our own tacit approval and toleration of what is possibly the most extensive of all warfares.

Brownmiller's thesis is that rape is not the act of lonely, deranged psychopaths or men with "no other sexual outlet" — it is an organized (albeit unconscious) effort by men to keep women in their "place" — frightened, intimidated, wounded psychologically and physically.

She is extensive in her research and persuasive in her argument. The opening chapters cover the history of rape — the early legal, biblical and historical aspects. She traces the history of rape through wars — World War I to Vietnam; revolutions — American and Russian; violence — against blacks in the United States, against whites in the Congo, against the Mormons, against the native Americans. The list is endless and revolting. Rape has never been "just" an act of forced sex against one person but an act of violence accompanying every war,

social upheaval and social disunification since patriarchy began, she shows. And, most importantly, it has almost always been perpetrated by men against women.

She feels that an understanding of rape comes partially from knowing its



Inez Garcia, rape victim who killed one of her attackers.

photo by Bettye Lane

history, partially from knowing myths which accompany it. The rapist as hero (Eldridge Cleaver) myth, the woman who uses rape as revenge (Potiphar's wife) myth, the women who "say no when they mean yes" myth, the "myth" (perhaps stated with a wink) that a woman cannot be raped against

her will — all contribute to a cultural misunderstanding of rape and by implication, an acceptance of it in our society.

In an attempt to deal with the social realities of rape, Brownmiller has made several suggestions that, in some circles, have led her to be labeled a neo-Fascist. The first, and less controversial, is that 50 per cent of law enforcement and other armed forces' personnel be women. This would bring better treatment of rape victims and break down two bastions of established malepower/control. Whether women would want to work in these situations as they are, and whether change in these institutions could come from the inside, is another matter.

Brownmiller's second suggestion, more difficult for liberals and civil libertarian groups to deal with, is that pornography causes men to think they have an inalienable right to the bodies of women — making heterosexual pornography propaganda for rape.

Questioning our priorities for oppressed groups and what we are willing to ignore, Brownmiller asks what would happen if "the bookstores and movie theaters lining Forty-Second Street in New York City were devoted not to the humiliation of women by rape and torture, as they currently are, but to a systematized, commercially successful propaganda machine depicting the sadistic pleasures of gassing Jews or lynching blacks?"

The analogy may seem extreme but the book shows that there is little question that our culture is profoundly anti-female and violent and that everyone, including the liberal community, has been a long time in recognizing or taking responsibility for these facts and all of the questions they raise.

Brownmiller is not only concerned with heterosexual rape; she has a

lengthy chapter dealing with homosexual and prison rape. Viewing the prison as a microcosm of the outside world, she applies her theories of power and domination here. The assault of prisoners by both guards and other prisoners is seen not as a release of sexual tension but as acts of aggression and violence, because even in the all male prison world the heterosexual model is still functional. Citing case histories, newspaper accounts, and government studies, she states that the prison hierarchy is remarkably similar to that of the outside world — masculine traits are admired and reinforced while feminine ones are derided and viewed with particular repugnance when appearing in men. She also found that men who rape in prison are usually confined there for crimes of violence: robbery, assault, and heterosexual rape. Men who are *raped* looked younger for their years, appeared unathletic, and were noticeably better looking than their predators. The fate of the prison rape victim is similar to that of raped women. He is usually branded as a "chicken" for the rest of his term; rape victims who report the crime are usually ignored or moved to a different prison to avoid the trouble of an investigation. Many times the possibility of rape is totally ignored and the situation is viewed as a seduction that has gone wrong.

Brownmiller has written an important book. It faces head-on a problem which most people have long ignored, misunderstood, and, on various levels, accepted and condoned. Yet she is not pessimistic, she feels rape can be eradicated, not just avoided or controlled. *Against Our Will* is strong and willful. It has, as its author states, "given rape a history," and will hopefully be instrumental in denying it a future.

## Best All-Male Films of '75

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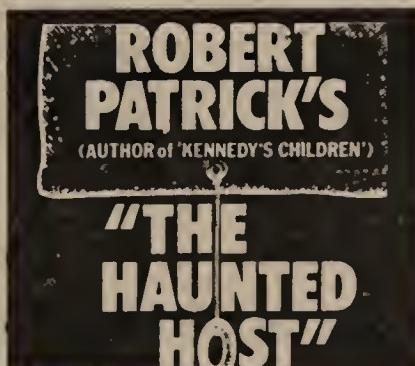
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## A (Belated) Valentine to Gertrude S. and Virgil T.



Gertrude Stein

By Nicholas Deutsch

If I speak of *Four Saints in Three Acts* and *The Mother of Us All* as gay works (I mean that as a compliment), it's not to imply that either opera deals directly with homosexuality, or even with those experiences — repression, persecution, loneliness — familiar to gay people in our culture from their own lives, and from the works of such composers as Tchaikovsky, Britten, and Henze. No, the reason I think of them as gay, *feel* them that way, has more to do with the perspective from which they view human life than with specific themes or characters. These works examine a wide variety of human behavior and condition — inner and outer, female and male, solitary, dual, and collective — without once assuming that heterosexuality is automatically of more interest than anything else, or (indeed) that relations between women and men need be sexual or amorous at all. In other words, our author and composer have little or no stake in a society obsessed with a narrow range of human expression.

+ + + +

A little history. In Paris, during the winter of 1925, Virgil Thompson was introduced to Gertrude Stein (he was

30, she 51). Soon he was making experimental settings of some of her short pieces:

My hope . . . had been to break, crack open, and solve for all time anything still waiting to be solved, which was almost everything, about English musical declamation. My theory was that if a text is set correctly for the sound of it, the meaning will take care of itself. And the Stein texts, for prosodizing in this way, were manna.

The next step: to ask her for an opera libretto. "Among the saints," Stein later wrote, "there were two she had always liked better than any others, Saint Theresa of Avila and Ignatius Loyola . . ." The theme (in Thomson's words) was "the religious life — peace between the sexes, community of faith, the production of miracles . . ."

At first glance, it may be a bit hard to see this in the abstractions and wordplay of Stein's text. True, the saints are there — a great many more than four — as well as sly references to Christian imagery ("How many nails are there in it?") There is the famous vision of the Holy Ghost ("Pigeons on the grass alas."). But — an opera about Christian saints which never once mentions God or Jesus? The truth of the matter is that Stein was resolutely uninterested in the whole male-oriented, historical/mythical appearance in Christianity; what did interest her, what the words reflect so vividly, are landscapes: outer ones of sun and rain, inner ones of peace and turmoil.

The first virtue of Thomson's music is that it brings these landscapes into sharper focus, giving stronger definition to the ecstasies and torments suggested by the text. Its second virtue is that it allows every word of that text to project with complete clarity — the highest tribute a composer ever paid a librettist. As for style, Thomson has called attention to its "local references . . . to my Southern Baptist upbringing in Missouri," and referred to the score as "drenched in Anglican

chant (running from Gilbert and Sullivan to Morning Prayer and back)"; he might also have mentioned the playful satire of conventional operatic gestures — deadpan recitatives, extravagant climaxes, meandering interludes — as the perfect musical equivalent of Stein's use of theatrical convention, whereby she cheerfully punctuates the text with countless act and scene divisions, pausing only once to ask, "How many acts are there in it?" (The answer is four.)

+ + + +

*The Mother of Us All* deals both with a historical figure — Susan B. Anthony — and with a historical (and continuing) political struggle, that of women in a male-dominated society. As a consequence, the text is less abstract than that of *Four Saints*: there are definite events, conversations, and debates. Not that it's some sort of glorified high school pageant: Stein's panoramic view of social history permits John Adams to rub shoulders with Lillian Russell (not to mention Gertrude S. and Virgil T.), and there is a delicious playfulness to the satire in the "scenes of public life."

Thomson matches that playfulness step-by-step; if the score for *The Mother* is a shade less remarkable than that for the earlier work, the increased intellectual interest of the text seems to require that the music, at times, take a back seat. On the other hand, the setting of the opera allows Thomson to display his full catalogue of Americana: waltzes, marches, and hymn tunes evoke the past in a delicate mixture of nostalgia and parody. And he rises fully to the challenge of Susan B.'s magnificent tirades, matching verbal dialectic with musical form. The final pages of the work, in which Susan B. reflects on her struggles, achieve — through the simplest and sweetest musical means — a genuine nobility of utterance.

Here, too, Stein's personal identification with her protagonist becomes clearest. In 1946, the year of her death, she too could look back on a "long life of effort and strife," her own arduous



Virgil Thomson

struggle for artistic understanding and acceptance. Among other things, *The Mother of Us All* is a debate on the nature of all human effort to effect change in the world, and on the ambivalent need for leadership and leaders. Though the specific issue is the rights of women, and the viewpoint strongly, intuitively feminist, the implications are universal and eternal. Surely it was personal necessity, artistic and emotional, that made Stein develop the inner strength and that independence permitted her to grow as an artist into her 72nd year; it is her awareness of the aloneness (not loneliness!) of each human individual that gives her last completed work its particular power and poignancy. It's an awareness, I believe, that she shared with many gay people, one which finds its clearest statement in the words which she gives to Susan B. Anthony near the end of the first act of *The Mother of Us All*: Will they remember that it is true that neither they that neither you, will they marry will they carry, aloud, the right to know that even if they love them so, they are alone to live and die, they are alone to sink or swim they are alone to have what they own, to have no idea but that they are here, to struggle and thirst to do everything first, because until it is done there is no other one.

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*Is it really possible to come out three times in your life? I have a feeling that that is what has happened to me: a continuing line from a beautiful/terrible experience at 14 to what I am recently doing doesn't seem to exist. Rather, as I look into the past it is reminiscent of watching a yo-yo.*

Back in the now-fondly-remembered '50s (a hideous era, nostalgia notwithstanding), a great affair merged into my 14-year-old, not-quite self in the form of (of course!) a sailor. He was 19, and if I were to believe him, and I'd like to, we were each other's first experiences in feeling love for another person and expressing that love in sex.

His name was John. He was sort of dating my cousin, Sara — a great catch for her, being an "older man" to her 17. He came from Arizona and his Indian-Irish ancestry and his youth on a ranch and in the Navy gave him a mystique that caused quite a stir among Sara's friends. The girls adored him and the boys alternated between hating his guts and being enviously impressed by him.

We were at the beach. I was being studiously ignored by Sara and her friends, being "under Sara's eye" for the afternoon. We both loathed that. I was lying in the sun, trying to ignore them, when John came over and asked to borrow my tan oil. In a moment remembered all my life I looked into his deep green eyes and something happened to me — and to him. I didn't understand then, nor yet do I, what happens or why in that second that tells all and somehow makes it understood.

I knew.

He knew.

I think I seduced him. We both thought I did, although there is no memory of that. A few nights later we contrived to sleep together. It all seemed to work out. I don't know how. Fumbling and wonderingly we explored and discovered each other.

From that point the summer became the happiest I've ever known — a soft porn fantasy of naked swimming, love-making and laughter. Looking back it occurs to me to be curious how we ever did it without everyone knowing, but we did and they didn't.

Come fall I was to go away to school. We agonized, and I began to be literally sick over the idea of leaving him. We made crazy plans and saw them as crazy; we got worse and worse. His hitch was up in September. I'd just go away with him and . . . what? My Uncle Lee was the person I turned to.

Everyone needs an Uncle Lee. A lot of us have one, though sometimes he's a little less honorable than mine was. He understood. Yes, very well, he said. The "mystery" of Uncle Lee opened: He was gay. Yes, it was true that he'd been married and his wife had died. She was, in fact, dying when they married. She loved him a lot, so . . . But now he lived in Phoenix with his lover, very, very discreetly (this was 1950 after all). They vacationed separately. No one in the family knew, except me, now.

Uncle Lee went to my parents and suggested a spell in the wide-open spaces. They agreed and, in mid-September, Uncle Lee and I were off to Phoenix. John arrived at the end of September, and we moved into the large east wing of Uncle Lee's house. John had a job with Lee's company, and we settled into an idyllic setup which went on for two years broken only by summer vacations when I went regrettably back to my family for a month.

Too good to last? Of course, and at this point it begins to look like a soap opera. John was killed in a crazy fluke car accident. I was alone — cracked up and wound up — under the concerned eyes of Uncle Lee and a remarkably wise psychiatrist. Eventually it all worked out of me to a point at which I could leave Phoenix. I went home.

In college and the Navy I never felt a flicker of attraction to any guy. I began to date women, some seriously. Then I met Jane. We decided to marry and the next night we saw "Cat On a Hot Tin Roof." Brick wasn't lost on me. I spent the night in serious thought and then told Jane about John. We talked about it for a long time and decided to go together to talk to a psychiatrist. His imprimatur: "only an adolescent phase." So we married, settled into suburbia and a year later our son was born. Our families were delighted. We were happy. Everything was fine.

And then Kelly came to work in the office. The day he walked in I saw Johnny reincarnated. Not only did they look a lot alike, they even had mannerisms in common. The whole dream I was in popped like a soap bubble. I waited a whole week of sheer hell and then went after him like Grant taking Richmond. Kelly fell into the patterns of the affair like the veteran he turned out to be. It was early nights with Kelly then home to Jane and Paul and the whole suburban pipe dream.

Being a lover to Kelly and a husband to my wife and a father to my son was beginning to be more of a problem all the time. I felt I had to make a choice and put myself through 14 nervous breakdowns trying to sort it out. Then dear Kelly went to my wife and it was sorted out in spades. She ordered me

out of her life and Paul's, reinforcing it with a court order. She obtained a divorce naming Kelly as the respondent. And Kelly, having worked this miracle, did some more magic and disappeared. The fifteenth nervous breakdown was a great success.

Two years later I emerged from the very lovely little Vermont refuge in which my family quickly deposited me.

"Cured," they said.  
"Of what?" I wondered.

By then I knew what gay life was. I hit the bars and the rest of the story is probably too familiar to everyone to bother writing it out. The number the bars did on my head, and the whole thing I started to do as I crossed 35 and headed toward the "living death of 40" have been worked out with hard work and group therapy. I know who and what I am, understand a lot of what I need to give and I need to get. I know that now I'm ready to mean something to a special someone — whom I met two weeks ago.

By a remarkably similar process we arrived at this point and are coming together. We are ourselves. Together we are more than ourselves. We understand how much we need honesty, caring and sharing to keep growing as individuals within and for our relationship and without.

To someone younger this may all seem obvious. I am awed and envious of the ease with which younger people seem to know and accept things which have taken me a lifetime, or half one, to learn, to accept, to know. If it is true, not an illusion for them. I hope they appreciate the gift.

For me, almost 40, I have finally, really, come out.



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Black Gay Men's Caucus, GCN, Box 9600

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Men's group

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Cambridge Women's Center

Charles Street Meetinghouse

Cambridgeport Gays, c/o GCN Box 6500

Civil Liberties Union of Mass.

Close Space (WCAS), 740m AM

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Dignity of Boston, c/o 1105 Boylston St., Boston

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Gay Men's Center 723-6268 or 491-6968

Gay Recreational Activities Committee (GRAC), c/o GCN, Box 8000

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266-2069

Gay Alert (for gay community emergency only) 523-0368, 267-0764

Gay Media Action, c/o GCN Box 5000,

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Gay Community News

Gay Nurses Alliance, c/o GCN Box 251, Boston 02108

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## Quick Gay Guide

### EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS [area code 617]

Alcoholics Together/Worcester 756-0730

Clark Gay People, Box A-70, Clark U., Worcester 01610

Dignity/Merrimack Valley, P.O. Box 348, Lowell, 01853

Gay Activists Alliance, c/o Postmaster, General Delivery, Provincetown 02373

Gaypeople/Drop-In Center, Campus Center, 100 Elliot St., Haverhill 01830

Haverhill, N.E.C.C. Gay Line, M 8-10 am, T 6-8 pm, W 12-2 pm

Homophile Assistance League of Provincetown, Box 674, P-town 02657, 158 Commercial St.

Homophile Union of Montachusett P.O. Box 262, Fitchburg 01420

MCC/Merrimack Valley, Box 750, Haverhill, MA 01830

MCC/Worcester 523-7664

Provincetown 24-Hour Drop-In Center 487-0387

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# February 24 thru March 4



YOUNG AMERICA

## 24 tues

Boston — GRAC begins weekly basketball for beginners and non-beginners at YMCU, 48 Boylston St., 7-9 pm. All are invited, meet in lobby by 7.

Boston — Integrity meeting on "Ethics and/or Gay Relationships"; 7:30 Eucharist, 8:30 meeting, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St.

Boston — GCN benefit at Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St. Performance of 'The Haunted Host' followed by cocktail party with stars Harvey Fierstein and Perrin Ferris.

Boston — Northeastern Univ. GSO and Fengay announce a joint meeting at 7:30 pm in room 266 of Ell Student Center, Huntington Ave. An informal discussion of town-gown neighborhood issues.

## 25 wed

Boston — Gay Men's Center hosts "Assertiveness Training" course, 6 weekly meetings, info call 241-7378.

Haverhill — MCC/Merrimack Valley holds weekly rap groups every Wed. at 7:30 pm. For Info write MCC-MV, Box 750, Haverhill, MA 01830, or call MCC Boston, 523-7664.

## 27 fri

Boston — Associated Artists Opera Company will present Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thompson's opera of Women's Liberation, "The Mother of Us All." Performances at 8 pm in National Theatre of the Boston Center for the Arts. Tickets available through GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108.

Cambridge — The Up From Under Coffeehouse, 136 River St., presents Claudia, Jane & Neil (music) and 'The Reds and the Feds' (a skit about grand juries). Doors open 8 pm, show at 8:30, suggested donation \$1 or baked goods.

Boston — The Gay Men's Center will sponsor a Gay Men's Health Panel with Richard Pillard, M.D., and Sandy Reder, M.D. at 8 pm at 36 Bromfield St., rm. 310. Free admission, question and answer format.

Amherst — Women's dance with Artandryl at Hampden Dining Commons, UMass from 9-1. Proceeds benefit the Women's Auto Repair Collective for tools and garage. BYOB.

NY — "Arsenic and Old Lace" will be at 18th Street Playhouse, 145 W. 18th St., today and tomorrow at 10:30 pm, Sun. at 7:30 pm. Info call (212) 924-8400.

NY — MCC hosts showing of "A Very Natural Thing" at 8 pm at the church hall, 201 W. 13th St. (corner of 7th Ave.). \$1.50 in advance, \$2 at door. Call (212) 691-7428 for details.

## 28 sat

Boston — Leap-year day-eve party, Northeastern University, 9 pm.

Boston — Associated Artists Opera Company will present Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thompson's opera of Women's Liberation, "The Mother of Us All." Performances at 8 pm in National Theatre of the Boston Center for the Arts. Tickets available through GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108.

Boston — Dignity, Integrity and MCC join hands to bring you a Mardi Gras Party; prizes for costume, buffet, BYOB at The Paulist Center, 5 Park St. at 8 pm. Tickets \$3 advance, \$3.50 at door.

## 29 sun

New Haven, CT — "Come Out Tonight", a gay radio show, is heard on WYBC-FM, 93.4 at 7 pm the last Sunday of each month.

## 1 mon

Boston — DOB hosts building fund appeal meeting to plan for purchase of building for women, at 8 pm, 419 Boylston St.

## 2 tues

Boston — DOB sponsors topic rap on Susan Saxe, 7:30 pm, 419 Boylston St., room 323.

Boston — *I Am A Woman* by Viveca Lindfors opens tonight for a two week run at the Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St. For info call 426-6912.

## 4 thur

Boston — Free University of the Fenway offers a seminar, "Exploring the Gay Lifestyle" beginning tonight 7:30-9:30. This is the first of eight meetings given by Thomas Nylund at 68 St. Stephens St. For info call 247-1919 or 437-2729.

Milton MA — A seminar on the Changing Norms of Sexuality will be given by Fr. Paul Shanley. They will take place the first three Thursdays of March at 1:30, repeated at 7:30. Fee is \$15 per series, students 1/2 price, fees negotiable. Lectures will be given at Columban Seminary, 1200 Brush Hill Rd., (128 to 138, north to Brush Hill Rd., Milton). For further info write Exodus Secretary, 1 Warwick St., Warwick House, Roxbury MA 02120.



Submit Calendar items to Calendar Editor, GCN, by noon on Wednesday prior to date of publication.